

Annual Report

For the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

2006



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DMVA

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



Reports:

DMVA...By the Numbers	4
DMVA Organizational Chart	5
Dispatches From the Front	6
Alaska Army National Guard	8
Civil Support Team	9
Mongolia Partnership	9
Joint Forces	9
Where in the World	10

Alaska Air National Guard	12
Homeland Security	14
Veterans	16
Space & Missile Defense	17
Youth Academy	18
Alaska State Defense Force	19
Naval Militia	19
Recognitions	20



Year of Service. A missile test was conducted at Kodiak launch facility. America's Missile Defense Program was front and center on the world's stage after North Korean nuclear testing.
Photo: Courtesy of Missile Defense Agency



High Water Mark.
At one point during the past year, more than 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard were serving in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and elsewhere; or getting ready for deployment to one of those areas in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Alaskans continue to step forward in significant numbers to enlist into the Guard. Nearly one Alaskan per day is joining the Guard. Four out of every 10 Alaskans joining the military services are enlisting into the National Guard. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard

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Ready to Serve

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Moving Forward

Governor Frank H. Murkowski
Commander in Chief

A YEAR OF SUCCESS, A TIME OF PROGRESS



Guard Troops Get Governor's Send Off. Governor Frank H. Murkowski and Mrs. Nancy Murkowski visited with Soldiers of the Alaska Army National Guard as they completed their training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. According to officials, nearly 600 Soldiers deployed to Kuwait and Iraq. Photo: McHugh Pierre, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Calendar year 2006 has seen a great deal of accomplishments and accolades for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. More Alaska Territorial Guard members have been signed up for their rightful benefits, disasters have been responded to in a quick and efficient manner, and more Alaskans are serving our state and country in the Alaska National Guard.

Issues from the past have come back to the Alaska National Guard. As an example, the Air National Guard is receiving a new mission from the National Guard Bureau, the C-17 Globemaster III strategic airlifter. This new aircraft is one of the most versatile in the Air Force. It will keep the Alaska Air National Guard in the thick of the action, supporting the most current missions for the Air Force.

During the 1990s, the Alaska Army National Guard saw the lowest enlistment numbers in many years. Today, however, we are seeing enlistments above

expectations and the formation of a new Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Their roles and responsibilities are important in the defense of Alaska and our nation. This exciting new opportunity for the Army National Guard will keep our Soldiers trained and educated to the latest United States Army standards.

We experienced the extreme low of our increased involvement in the War on Terror when our Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Iraq. We lost four Soldiers, loved and cherished by their families and their communities. We will always remember their sacrifice, and will continue to help provide for their families. I know our Soldiers and Airmen understand the possibility of paying the ultimate price, but Nancy and I continue to pray for everyone's safety and quick return home.

It has been a tough, challenging year for those of us who've been directly impacted by the various disasters that occurred. Yet, we've been resilient. Our

abilities to recover from the disasters and emergencies have been exceptional.

We have seen a record level of coordinated response. From spring flooding in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to the fire devastating the community of Hooper Bay, emergency response has been outstanding. Our recovery teams are now closing out disaster response paperwork faster than ever before. Communities are getting recovery dollars faster to get their standard of living back on track.

This has been a year of success for the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. I believe we have laid a foundation to continue this level of service for many years to come.

With warm regards and very best wishes,

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor and Commander in Chief



My Turn

Major General Craig E. Campbell

Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard & Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

An Extraordinary Year of Service ...

This is a banner year for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, capping four years of change and growth. We have successfully faced a wide array of missions and requirements – including response and initial recovery for major disasters to running America's Missile Defense Program.

The warrior ethos runs deep within our department. There is ready evidence of determined commitment, selfless service and a sense of quiet, yet thoughtful patriotism that rises to the challenges we face in keeping Alaska safe.

We've seen the binding of our civilian employees, Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines. We are one team. Our blood is red, white and blue. Our backgrounds and cultures unify and bind us one to another. We live a code of honor, dignity and selfless devotion to duty. It is what drives us forward and sustains us.

At every turn in our journey, we've witnessed numerous examples of success. One needs only to recall how the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management responded in helping our fellow Alaskans in the aftermath of recent fires and floods. Today people are getting recovery resources faster than before and the department is reaching out in more ways through telephone hotlines, Internet advisories, and in person assistance teams.

In 2002 the Alaska National Guard was only slightly involved in fighting the War on Terror. We are a nation at war, but a key element was missing. That has changed. The Alaska Army National Guard and the Alaska Air National Guard, at the urging of the troops, are involved first hand, protecting the freedoms of Alaskans and providing freedom and security to others around the world.

We've set an all-time record deploying the largest number of Alaska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen since World War II. At one point, we had more than 1,000 deployed overseas. Their convincing service is clearly matched by the patriotism and devotion of their families, along with that of their employers.

Our transformation continues. Four
2006 DMVA ANNUAL REPORT



Hands-On Inspection of Missile Defense. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, left, met with Alaska's Adjutant General, Major General Craig Campbell, and Lieutenant General Douglas Frazier, commander of the Alaskan Command, during his tour of the Missile Defense Program at Fort Greely. Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Space & Missile Defense Battalion operate and secure the missile field. Photo: McHugh Pierre, DMVA Public Affairs

years ago the Army National Guard had its lowest numbers of enrollment in more than a decade. That has changed. In the midst of war, we have shattered our enlistment goals. Alaskans are volunteering to protect their neighbors.

We are the tip of the spear for the Missile Defense Program. Every day, Alaska National Guardsmen stand at the ready, operating the Fort Greely missile defense site. When our president says it is time to launch a missile to protect America, Alaskans will push the button.

Another change had to be made before Alaska could be involved in the Army's plans to defend America. We evolved to the most integrated and technologically advanced fighting unit on the planet – the Infantry Brigade Combat Team. That transition is taking place. Our 207th Infantry Brigade is making headlines. Directing NATO forces in southern Afghanistan; other deployed units are engaged in Iraq.

The Alaska Air Guard continues superb operations with the 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base, the 168th Air Refueling Wing at Eielson Air Force Base, Regional Air Operations Center at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Space Surveillance at Clear Air Force

Station and the Rescue Coordination Center at Camp Denali.

When the Base Realignment and Closure Committee selected Kulis Air National Guard Base to be closed, we took advantage of that decision by adding four C-130s to the 176th Wing and introducing a new Associate Squadron of C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at Elmendorf Air Force Base – keeping Guard members in the airlift business for decades to come.

We continue to honor our veterans. We finally have a veteran's home for the most elderly to receive their federal benefits. We've continued an aggressive effort to recognize members of the Alaska Territorial Guard for their extraordinary service in World War II.

Many of Alaska's youth continue to find their way in the Alaska Military Youth Academy – their lives are saved, dreams are realized. The voluntary 22-week-long program is responsible for changing the lives of its graduates.

All of our success is thanks to the many Alaskans who give so much.

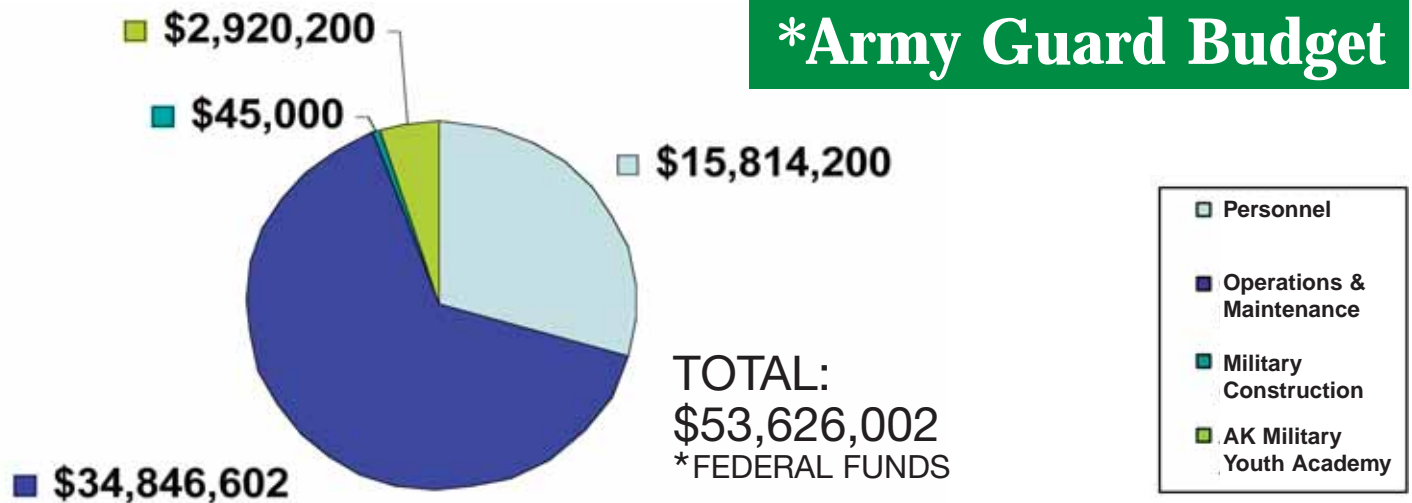
Very respectfully,

Major General Craig E. Campbell

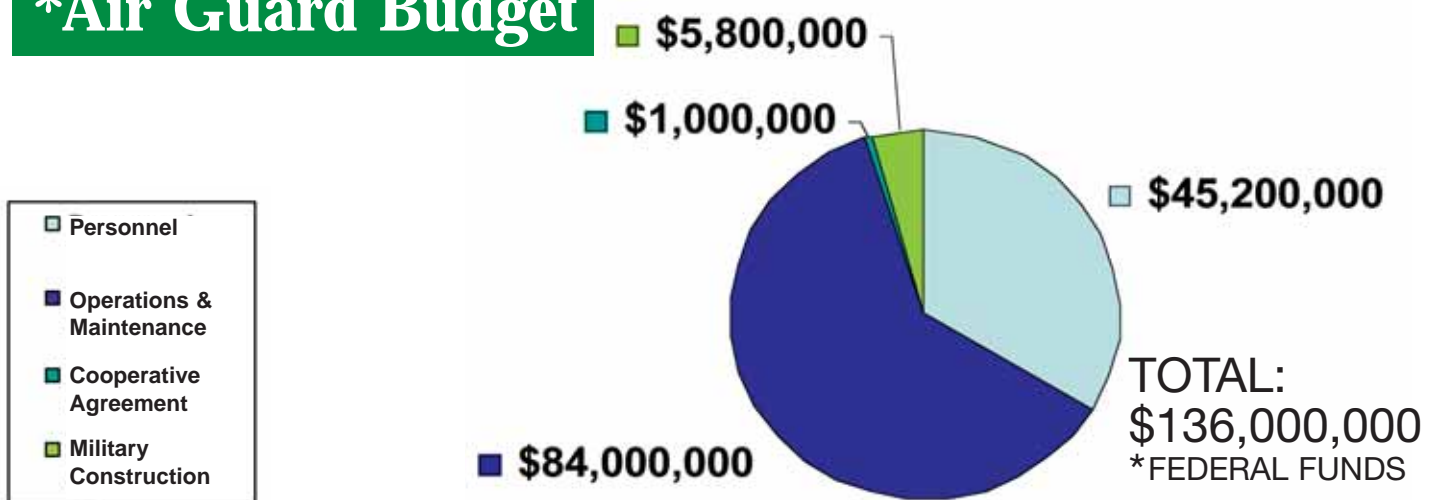
DMVA... By the Numbers

State Funding Important to Federal Support of Alaska National Guard

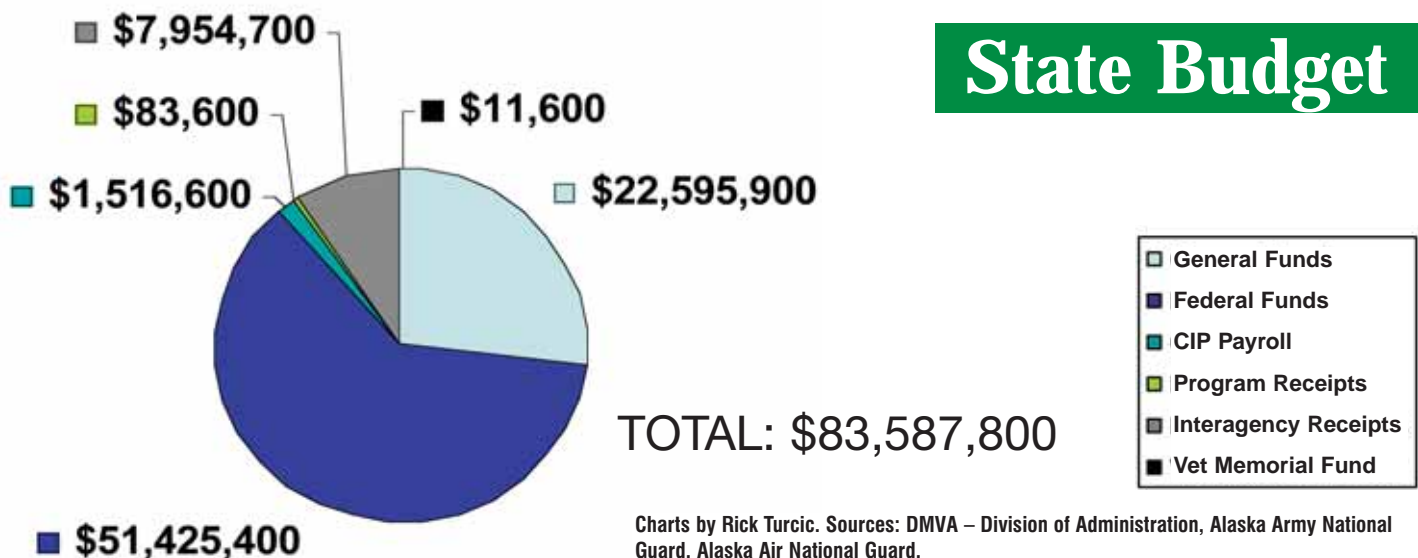
*Army Guard Budget



*Air Guard Budget

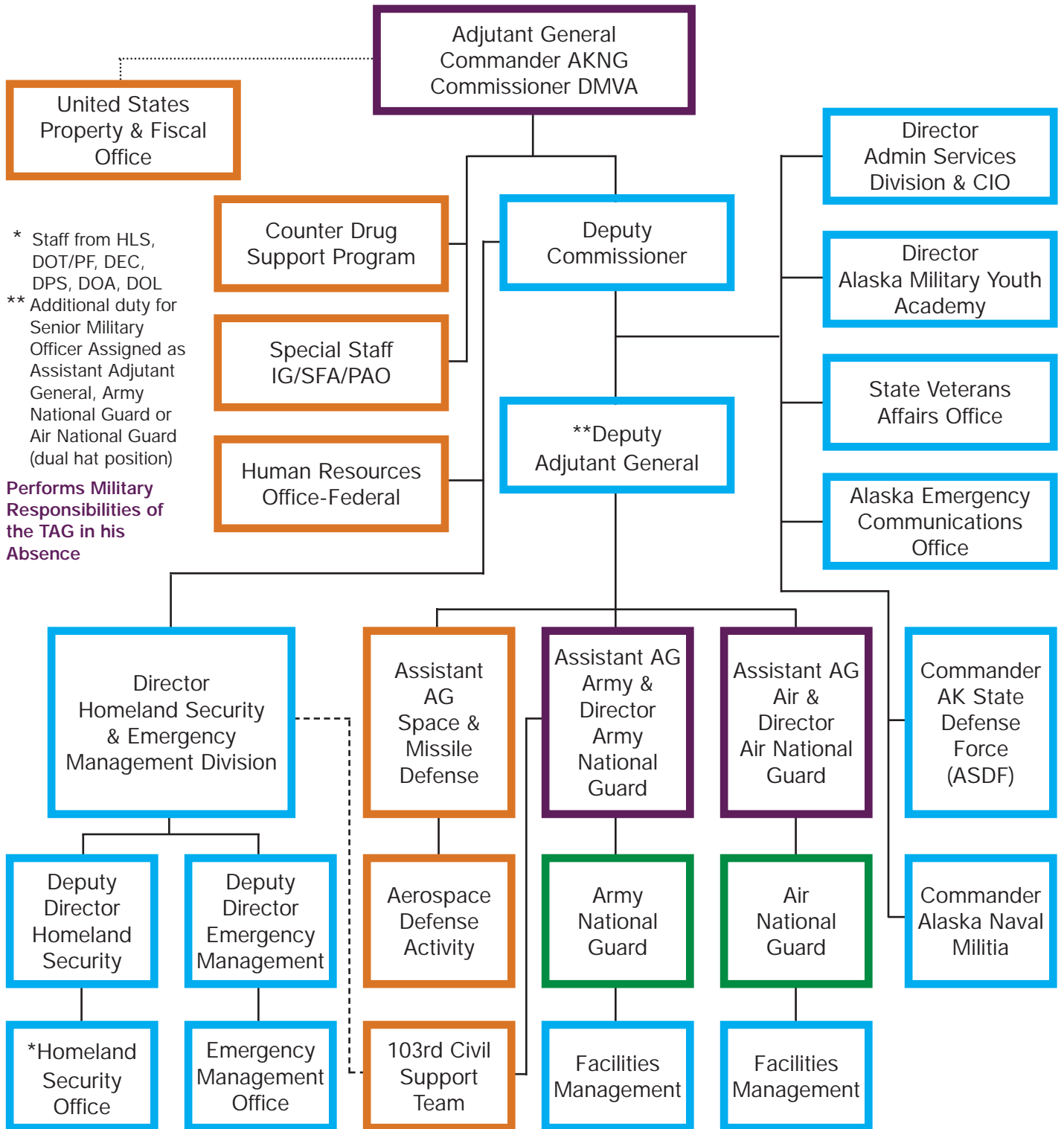


State Budget

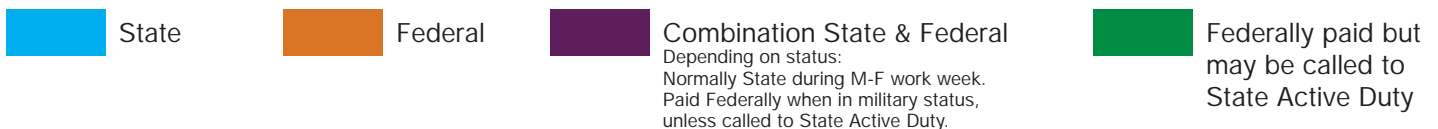


Charts by Rick Turcic. Sources: DMVA – Division of Administration, Alaska Army National Guard, Alaska Air National Guard.

Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



.....Coordination -----Supervisory Control *(When Designated)*





Dispatches from the Front...

Alaska Air National Guard Adds New Mission

JUNEAU, Alaska ... Governor Frank H. Murkowski and Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, are celebrating a new partnership between the Alaska Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

As part of the Air Force Total Force Integration initiatives, Alaska's Air National Guard is teaming with a wing at Elmendorf Air Force Base to form an Associate unit. This new unit is slated to fly the nation's premier cargo aircraft, the C-17 Globemaster III.

"The BRAC decision to close Kulis Air National Guard Base undoubtedly led to this decision," Murkowski said. "Now that the Air Guard will be located on Elmendorf, this partnership is a perfect fit for Alaska."

Experienced Airmen of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing will train and fly with the Air Force's 3rd Wing, allowing maximum usage of these

highly capable aircraft. Teaming active duty Airmen and Guard members allows Alaska forces to perform a key federal mission to provide long-range, precision airlift as well as intra-theater airlift.

"I'm pleased to see the national recognition of the talent demonstrated by the Alaska Air National Guard," said Campbell. "The mission of the C-17 allows increased opportunities for Guard members and Alaska, expanding our airlift capacity and our operational capability"

As an Associate unit, the Air Force will maintain primary responsibility of the planes while crews from both the active duty and Air National Guard will fly and perform maintenance.

Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, is encouraged by these initiatives. "This move is one of the many showing the Air Force is committed to involving the Air National Guard in all missions," Blum said. ■

Story by McHugh Pierre,
DMVA Public Affairs

C-17 Over Bering Sea

Photo: Mark Farmer, Topcover.com



Future. Governor Frank H. Murkowski, right, joined Brigadier General Tim Scott and Fairbanks Guard recruiters to open the Recruiting Center. Photo: Courtesy of 168th Air Refueling Wing

Grand Opening of Joint Guard Recruiting Office in Fairbanks

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

FAIRBANKS, Alaska ... The Alaska National Guard, in an effort to become more available to the public, recently opened a new Recruiting Center at the River Mall.

"Having our recruiters in one location at the River Mall in Fairbanks makes our Guard members more accessible to young people and will serve as a convenient location for the community to get information about the Alaska National Guard," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "We want Alaskans to know that the Army and Air National Guard have unique and rewarding opportunities available – now only one stop is needed to find out more about both."

The grand opening began with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by an open house. Many well-wishers stopped by and enjoyed refreshments. A Guard Humvee, security police vehicle and other military vehicles were on display.

This joint venture follows in the footsteps of the Anchorage Joint Recruiting Office, which opened its doors in Spring 2005. ■

Alaska Army National Guard

A DEPLOYED FORCE IN TRANSFORMATION

This was a banner year of activity with mobilizations and deployments. The “battle rhythm” really got underway in 2003 with the start of significant deployments. In 2006, the current operations of the Alaska Army National Guard were more challenging. The Guard hit a new “high water mark” for overseas assignments – including the combined call-ups for World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Shield/Storm and the Balkans War support – with nearly 1,000 Soldiers either deployed or getting ready to go. Here are the mobilizations and deployments, by the numbers:

- A mobile training team, with Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, returned home from Afghanistan in February after completing a one-year tour.

- Eight Soldiers of the 117th Mobile Public Affairs detachment returned home in March, upon completion of a one-year tour.

- Approximately 30 soldiers from Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Aviation, returned home from a year-long tour in Kuwait and Iraq this past spring.

- More than 50 soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Aviation, completed their one-year tour of service in Iraq this fall.

- The 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry (Scout) Headquarters, with about 80 Soldiers, mobilized in September 2005 and deployed to Iraq in November 2005. They returned this fall.

- The Headquarters element of the 207th Infantry Brigade (Scout), along with a significant portion of the 297th Support Battalion, deployed to Afghanistan in June 2006. With nearly 120 Alaskans, the Brigade directs American Forces, assigned with North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops, in the Kandahar Air Base area of southern Afghanistan. The units are programmed to return back home early next summer.

- Nearly 600 Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry (Scout), from 81 Alaska communities, deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit is expected to return home next fall.

- Two Soldiers are currently serving in Iraq with Mongolian forces. Alaska holds an active relationship with Mongolia.

- Five Soldiers with the Guard's C-12 Huron Flight Detachment deployed to Kuwait. They are expected to return home next fall.

- About 30 Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation, with the C-23 Sherpa fixed-wing aircraft, will deploy to Iraq this winter. The deployment is set for 6 months. The unit will return home next fall.

- Nearly 170 Soldiers, part of a security forces company, will go to Iraq next summer.

Recruiting progress hit new highs. With nearly 2,000 Soldiers located in over 80 communities across Alaska, recruiting is at record levels. By contrast, at the end of February 2005, less than 1,770 were assigned. These days, four of 10 Alaskans joining the Armed Forces enlist into the Alaska Army National Guard.

A cultural resource team aids in recruiting efforts by visiting each of the Guard's communities. Their goals include partnering with communities, increasing membership, and accomplishing the mission with the aid of tribal leaders and community members.

Transformation, Relevance and Missioning is the key to success.

- The 207th Infantry Brigade (Scout) is programmed to transform into an Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCT) with a provisional status in 2007, and an activation date of September 1, 2008. The new 207th IBCT will consist of over 3,500 Soldiers, including: a headquarters, a brigade troops battalion, two infantry battalions of approximately 800 Soldiers each, a reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition battalion, an artillery battalion and a support battalion. It will take a unique partnering with four other states and the Territory of Guam to field this robust force structure. Alaska will host the headquarters, the brigade troops battalion, an infantry battalion and a portion of the support battalion.

- Progress with Aviators. 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation transformed to an Air Assault Battalion in 2006. Result: UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters will increase from 24 to 30 aircraft. One company, with 10 aircraft, is assigned in Hawaii.



Largest Single Deployment Since World War II. Nearly 600 Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers took three months to prepare for their Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment to Kuwait, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The troops will serve for 12 months boots on the ground in Kuwait. Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, Alaska Army National Guard

– *Supporting what we have.* Alaska will add a Troop Command to its force structure in FY-08. That means up to 40 new positions, commanded by a Colonel, will provide leadership and administrative support for the Aviation Battalion, Medical Command, Recruiting & Retention Detachment, Regional Training Institute, the 103rd Civil Support Team, and other independent units.

– *Improving facilities and modernizing* or replacing outdated Federal Scout Armories and Readiness Centers has been a high priority since 2003. Here are some examples of the progress:

- The \$15.5 million Juneau Readiness Center was completed in August 2005. It is an innovative solution, in a joint partnership with the University of Alaska Southeast, combining the Guard's Readiness Center and the University Students Recreation Center. A new \$3 million National Guard Field Maintenance Shop is adjacent to it. A 20,000 sq. ft. controlled humidity storage facility was completed in 2006.
- A new \$24 million Bethel Readiness Center project is currently underway. Facility design is being completed and land is being secured from the city of Bethel. Initial site preparation work began in 2005. Facility construction is pending federal funding resourcing. Once construction begins, it can be completed in about two years. Results: Improved training and readiness facility; old Armory will be turned over to city.
- The Guard secured a long-term lease from the city of Nome for 10 acres of land to build a new Readiness Center using the existing design and plans from the Bethel Readiness Center. Results: Significant savings. New Nome Readiness Center is number one priority for Army's Future Year Development Plan. Once placed on the list, the project is available for congressional acceleration.
- Three controlled humidity vehicle storage buildings, at Camp Denali, are nearing completion. They'll provide 60,000 sq. ft. of storage space. Results: \$1.85 million project is 100 percent federally funded; it enhances the Guard's rapid response and readiness capabilities.
- \$1.5 million improvements are being added to the Kodiak Armory. The initiative began in the summer of 2006. It is projected to be complete in fall 2007. Results: Improved training support and space.
- The Alaska Army National Guard recently completed a master plan to develop and build a new "Collective Training Center" across from Camp Carroll, on Fort Richardson. Camp Carroll, the WWII vintage training site, is outdated and presently used by the Alaska Military Youth Academy

year-around. The new "Collective Training Center" will accommodate training requirements for the 207th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and serve mobilization requirements at Fort Richardson. Up to 1,000 Soldiers may be provided billeting, classrooms, mess halls, maintenance and storage facilities, parking, office and other support space. Alaska will finalize the master plan and submit the project to the National Guard Bureau for future year construction consideration in 2007.

Training and Readiness was the primary focus for Alaska's Army National Guard Soldiers in 2006. It was the most significant effort since the Guard was organized in 1939.

– *Alaska sent an infantry platoon*, medical unit and public affairs team to Mongolia to participate in the Khaan Quest multi-national peacekeeping exercise in August 2006. They achieved United Nations' validation as International Peacekeepers. Several Guard members became qualified multi-national trainers.

– *Alaska Army and Air Guard leaders continued developing a "Joint Staff"* and Joint Operations Center at Camp Denali. The Joint Staff capability is directly transferable to command-and-control of day-to-day Homeland Security & Emergency Management response missions across Alaska.

Military Support to Civil Authorities is a core value of the Alaska National Guard during disasters and emergencies – 2006 was another busy year. Here are few examples:

– *Arctic Care:* Each year, the Alaska National Guard, U.S. Army Alaska, the Air Force, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve test deployable medical, dental and veterinary capabilities. The focus: underserved areas within Alaska.

– *Response to wildfires* and western Alaska medical evacuations involved Alaska Army National Guard flight crews in 2006.

– *On the horizon, Soldiers are preparing Operation Jump Start* aviation and troop support during the second and third quarters of FY-2007. They will assist Arizona in protecting America's southern borders against illegal border crossings. Alaska will send up to four UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters with crews, and an Infantry Company consisting of about 100 Soldiers. Alaska and Arizona, with the assistance of the National Guard Bureau, in Washington, D.C., have executed a memorandum of agreement to facilitate the mission support.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigadier General Craig N Christensen

103rd Civil Support Team

During the state fiscal year 2006, the 103rd Civil Support Team (CST), Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) unit provided invaluable training to local responders in Kenai, Homer, Soldotna, Ketchikan, Nome, Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Palmer and Wasilla on HAZMAT, WMD and decontamination issues.

The unit deployed multiple times in support of local responders at Fort Wainwright and other areas of Alaska involving potential weapons of mass destruction and hazardous materials.

The unit deployed to assist the state of Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. They also helped U.S. Marshals with radiological substance screening.

103rd Soldiers and Airmen responded to suspected HAZMAT in a shipping container from Iraq. They assisted law enforcement officials concerning methamphetamine labs. The unit supported the visit by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to Alaska in fall 2006. ■



MONGOLIA PARTNERSHIP

*...Building Bridges of Friendship
Across the Pacific*



Story by McHugh Pierre & Major Mike Haller, DMVA Public Affairs

Mongolia is a land of extreme beauty and extraordinary people. A land filled with honored traditions and deeply held values.

Four years ago, as far as Alaskans were concerned, Mongolia was also a land of mystery. Alaska didn't begin this journey until the spring of 2003 when Major General Craig E. Campbell agreed to take part through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

The Alaska National Guard and the Mongolian Ministry of Defense are active partners with mutual interests. Among them, fighting in the War on Terrorism together, in Iraq, and sharing training activities with one another.

From the start, Mongolians have provided a company of Soldiers to fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Alaskans provide two senior National Guard Soldiers as liaisons communicating with coalition leaders – they serve one year, on the ground, with our Mongol friends. They are ready to fight alongside them against the insurgents in Iraq.

The National Guard State Partnership Program links U.S. states with a partner country for the purpose of improving bilateral relations with the U.S. The program's goals reflect an evolving international affairs mission promoting regional stability and civil-military relationships.

State Partners are coordinated through the Pacific Command commander and the U.S. Ambassadors' country team, and other agencies as appropriate, to ensure that Alaska National Guard support is tailored to meet both Mongolian and U.S. objectives.

This is a perfect fit. Mongolia is much like Alaska: extreme weather conditions – hot sunny days in the summer

similar to Fairbanks, while the cold bustling capital city of Ulaanbaatar compares with winters in Anchorage. Some of Mongolia's major economic drivers – mining and agriculture – are the same as Alaska. Each partner has a range of other similar economic and social interests that are yet to be developed.

Mongolia is finding its voice in the world. Like Alaskans, Mongolians are eager to take part in global affairs.

Living with China and Russia as neighbors during the Cold War was challenging. Alaska is bordered by Russia and Canada. Alaska also once had strong bonds with Russia. The similarities are inescapable.

As Mongolia builds itself into a representative democracy, Alaskans willingly share their methods and means of success. In 2005, Alaskans shared emergency management and communications techniques with their Mongolian counterparts.

In 2006, the 800th anniversary of the mighty Mongolian Empire and Genghis Khaan, numerous medical and military exchanges were shared between the Alaska National Guard and Mongolian forces. Other nations also came to take part thanks to the increasing support of the U.S. Pacific Command.

What's next? The possibilities are seemingly endless. Laying the foundation for a stronger future including possible sister city relationships, sharing techniques of mineral development with Alaskan companies, and cultural and research expansion opportunities for the University of Alaska and the Mongolian National University.

Not too bad for a military partnership with the Alaska National Guard. ■

Joint Forces

Ready to Serve



Counter Drug Program Continues as One of Best in America

The impact of the Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) is significant in reducing drug availability. It has furthered the education of parents and youth alike, concerning the negative aspects of drug use.

In the past year, the CDSP touched approximately 10,000 youth through drug awareness/education events with a counter drug messages. The Drug Demand Reduction program supported 55 schools and 10 community based organizations statewide.

In 2006, the CDSP assisted Alaska law enforcement agencies in more than 100 counter drug interdiction operations. During these activities, law enforcement officers seized:

- 2,081 cannabis plants
- 377 pounds of processed marijuana
- 11 pounds of cocaine

- 2 pounds of methamphetamines
- 662 ecstasy pills
- 264 weapons
- \$327,486 in currency

Law enforcement officers made 260 drug-related arrests. The total value of illegal drugs taken off the streets along with seized vehicles and property was nearly \$5 million. The CDSP assisted in the training of more than 300 peace officers.

The CDSP, with the assistance of the state of Alaska, is building a "High-Ropes" course for students that will be available in 2007 to support the Drug Demand Reduction effort. The unit is further setting the standard by being selected as a "pilot state" to initiate a new "stay on track" education program for students in school. ■

Where in the World

88 Dogs Above. An Alaska Air National Guard rescue team located 88 dogs and seven mushers during a blizzard that interrupted the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest international sled dog race between Alaska and the Yukon Territory. Rescue teams with an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and an HC-130 Hercules rescue tanker flew into the area east of Fairbanks and were able to locate seven teams. Rescue Coordination Center officials were concerned that a mix of rain, snow and high winds created low visibility conditions and obscured trail markings.



Barrow • Yukon Quest
• Eielson AFB
Clear AFS • Fort Greely
Camp Denali • Elmendorf AFB
Kulis ANG Base • Anchorage
• Kodiak • Juneau

Mongolia

Korea

Thailand

Patriotic Musher. Alaska Army National Guard member and Nome musher Dempsey Woods displayed the names of fellow Guardsmen of Nome's 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, on his sled during the first Nome Kennel Club sled dog race of the season, held on Jan. 8. About 10 Soldiers from Nome were part of the 1st Battalion deployment to Iraq in Sept. 2005. Woods finished the 15-mile, eight-dog race in fifth place.

Photo: Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget



Vigilant Intercept – Always Ready, Always There. An F-15C Eagle from the 12th Fighter Squadron, left, flies alongside a Russian Tu-95 "Bear" bomber, after the bomber approached the west coast of Alaska. Upon notification from operators with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Air Control Squadron, at Elmendorf Air Force Base, the North American Aerospace Defense Command launched three pairs of fighters from the command's Alaskan NORAD Region and the Canadian NORAD Region in response to Russian aircraft penetration of North America's Air Defense Identification Zone. Photo: Courtesy of U.S. Air Force



Powering Down. The Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Air Control Squadron (ACS) shut down its old green-and-black-radar-screen Q-93 system that was used to manage air defense operations throughout Alaska. Replacing the old system is the new Battle Control System-Fixed. It's a PC-based, color-monitor system that uses the newest technology to keep track of aircraft in the skies over the state.

Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



Running the Lanes. Soldiers of the Alaska and Oregon Army National Guard units took part in the Khaan Quest exercise at the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, with Soldiers from five other nations in August. This outreach effort is part of the State Partnership Program between Alaska and Mongolia. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



Veterans Honored In D.C. Staff Sergeant Howard A. Venable, a firefighter with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Civil Engineer Squadron, represented Alaska along with Sergeant John Chriswell, a public affairs non-commissioned officer with the Alaska Army National Guard's 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, at several Memorial Day events in Washington, D.C. The two Alaska National Guard members were honored for their deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Ken Fankhauser, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

Airdrop Above Afghanistan. Improved Container Delivery System bundles float to the ground after being dropped from a C-130 Hercules August 26. The drop was made from almost 10,000 feet above mean sea level and was calculated using up-to-the-minute wind data relayed from two small dropsondes deployed 20 minutes earlier. The dropsondes calculate wind speed and relay the information back to the aircraft, helping to calculate the correct drop point.

Photo: Senior Airman Brian Ferguson, U.S. Air Force



Money Man. Major Ken Blaylock has the responsibility for paying contractors who are helping to reconstruct Iraq. He finds himself paying for both large and small projects throughout the area where he is located. By the way, he is holding approximately \$1 million in his hands.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard



• Washington, D.C.

• Camp Shelby

• Iraq
Kuwait

Afghanistan

India

Horn of Africa

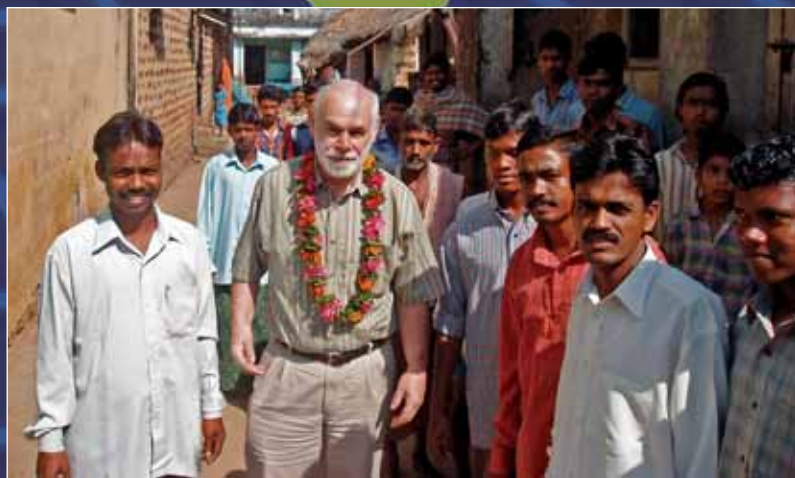


Good Luck, Safe Travels. Private Christopher Bosco, of 2nd Battalion, 297th Infantry, performed traditional Yupik dancing during a lunch break at the Bethel mobilization and deployment training session in March. The dances represent good luck in the Soldiers' travels.

Photo: Ken Fankhauser, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs



Best Wishes. Governor Frank Murkowski spoke to the Soldiers of Alpha, Bravo and Delta Companies of 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry before they headed to Camp Shelby, Miss., for three months of pre-deployment training. These Army National Guard members are slated to spend one year in Iraq after they complete their training in Mississippi. Photo: Ken Fankhauser, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs



DHS&EM Director Deploys to India. In November 2005, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM) Director David E. Liebersbach deployed to India for a month at the request of the U.S. State Department. Liebersbach was part of a team tasked with teaching the principals and fundamentals of emergency management to government and military officials, as well as private industry organizations. The trip was put together in response to the devastating earthquake that occurred in the Kashmir region between the countries of India and Pakistan in October 2005. Being chosen by the U.S. State Department for this mission highlighted Liebersbach as one of the top emergency management experts in the United States today. Photo: Courtesy of David Liebersbach, DHS&EM Director

Alaska Air National Guard



A YEAR OF CHANGE, CHALLENGE AND SUCCESS

Alaska's Citizen-Airmen are leading the radical changes sweeping America's entire Air National Guard. If you looked back to 2003, you'd see an Alaska Air Guard with two flying wings and not one of the unique missions it has gained over the past four years.

By far the biggest news to hit the Alaska Air National Guard was the results of the dual decisions by the Base Closure and Realignment Committee (BRAC) to close Kulis Air National Guard Base – moving its units, gear and aircraft across town to Elmendorf Air Force Base and reduce the active-duty size at Eielson Air Force Base. Here's the future:

- ***C-17s coming fresh from the factory.*** New aircraft and mission profiles are coming to the 176th Wing. This important reorganization brings new C-17 Globemaster III aircraft into the fourth flying unit of the Alaska Air National Guard. The aircraft will begin arriving at Elmendorf Air Force Base in June 2007.
- ***More C-130s heading to the Guard.*** The 144th Airlift Squadron will gain four C-130 Hercules – bringing its count to 12 birds uniquely suited for Alaska ... or Afghanistan.
- ***A New Home.*** A significant effort is under way at Elmendorf Air Force Base to accommodate the impending assignment of the 176th Wing. Kulis' inclusion on the BRAC list stopped all construction at the 130 acre base. The move will return well over \$100 million to the Southcentral Alaska economy from 2008 through 2011 (the year the move is scheduled to be completed).
- ***Eielson Edge.*** The strategic importance of Eielson Air Force Base was recognized thanks to an unparalleled grass-roots

campaign led by Governor Frank Murkowski to save the base. It became one of only two Air Force installations nationwide to be taken off the BRAC list.

The 168th Air Refueling Wing's reputation sustains Air Force confidence in the unit's abilities to accomplish current and future missions. A quick look at recent successes:

- Provided air interceptors with extended refueling as they found and escorted intruders away from Alaskan borders
- KC-135R Strato Tankers provided 2.3 million gallons (15.6 million pounds) of fuel to receiver aircraft of U.S. and coalition forces worldwide
- Continued construction and renovation projects topping more than \$44 million
- Developed a combined support policy with the 354th Fighter Wing
- Opened a new Joint Air & Army National Guard Recruiting Office in Fairbanks

Operational transformation of the Alaska Air National Guard continues. A series of complex changes are underway – possibly the greatest in the history of the Guard.

Alaskans are leading the efforts in the Global War on Terrorism. Airmen engaged in combat and combat support missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. Alaska Air Guard aircraft tail flashes are seen on ramps in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Djibouti, Diego Garcia, Thailand, South Korea, Guam, Japan, Mongolia and throughout Europe.

Here is a history making example of their impact: The 144th Airlift Squadron mobilized and deployed to Afghanistan to direct

tactical airlift activities. Operating from Bagram Air Base, the 144th flies round-the-clock missions in austere, combat conditions. They deliver vital troops and supplies into highly volatile areas supporting coalition forces.

Nearly four years ago, aircrews and pararescuemen of the 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons performed combat search and rescue missions in only a few other countries such as Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. Mission requirements are dictating a new, dynamic responsive force. The Guard remains ready to serve.

Last fall, Airmen from both Wings, along with a public affairs team, chaplains and other support members, deployed to the Deep South to help with the response and recovery efforts involved with hurricanes Katrina and Rita. They touched thousands of lives.

Unique Missions are mainstream for the Alaska Air National Guard. All but one did not belong to the Guard four years ago.

Space, the Final Frontier. The 176th Air Control Squadron, assigned to Elmendorf Air Force Base, kept watchful eyes over Alaskan skies round-the-clock. Created to defend against potential bomber attacks from now-former Cold War foes, the Air Control Squadron, today, keeps tabs not only on continued probing by the Russians, it also identifies and directs response to incursions of other unknown aircraft into Alaskan airspace.

Clear Air Force Station. The 213th Space Surveillance Squadron, an Alaska Air National Guard unit, has operational control of one of the key components of America's deterrence forces. The routinely interact with the Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Space & Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely, ensuring the safety of our nation.

The Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) at Camp Denali. The RCC is the lead coordinating agency for civil and military search and rescue activities above the 58th parallel – mainland Alaska. In 2006, the RCC accomplished an extraordinary milestone: crossing the threshold of more than 4,000 missions in its 12-year existence, nearly one mission per day since its inception. The RCC has directed the saving of more than 1,400 Alaskans and assisted many thousands more.

Very respectfully,

Brigadier General Tim Scott



Cougar Ace Rescue. Alaska Air Guardsmen rescued 23 seamen from the Singapore-registered freighter *Cougar Ace* when their vessel began to list to 90 degrees in heavy seas 250 miles south of Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands. The *Cougar Ace* was hauling nearly 5,000 Mazda automobiles to Vancouver, B.C. The ship is nearly 700 feet long. Officials believed that the cause of incident was related to a ballast tank adjustment that was not done properly.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Air National Guard



Homeland Security & Emergency Management



The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management marks 2006 as a “year of partnerships” highlighted by the coordination of agencies and resources in responding to, and recovering from, multiple disasters including the Hooper Bay fire disaster and the flooding disaster which affected the Matanuska-Susitna and Denali Boroughs and the Chugach Rural Education Attendance Area. Damage estimates for the two disasters total more than \$50 million. In total, the division responded to six disasters, two of which became federal disasters. For the existing 19 disasters, the division paid out more than

\$11 million for public infrastructure repair projects and handled individual assistance claims for over 500 residents throughout the state.

The division passed through \$6,728,242 in federal Homeland Security grants to local jurisdictions for homeland security and emergency operations, planning, and the purchase of specialized equipment to enhance the capability of agencies to prevent, respond to, and mitigate incidents of terrorism involving the use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive weapons and cyber attacks across the state.

“...through partnerships, leading the way in emergency management”

The mission of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is to protect lives and property from terrorism and all other hazards and provide rapid recovery from all disaster events.

The division's six strategic goals are set forth to deter terrorism and lead the way in emergency management. They include reducing the vulnerability to loss of life, injury and property damages resulting from disasters; providing efficient and timely homeland security and disaster management to Alaskans; developing and implementing statewide homeland security and emergency management training, exercise and outreach programs; developing and prioritizing a State of Alaska Critical Infrastructure list; enhancing and expanding terrorist information and intelligence dissemination; and increasing community and local jurisdiction public outreach.

The division is committed to developing and implementing an integrated system that provides effective emergency manage-

ment by proactively adapting to the changing world to better prepare for, respond to and recover from any type of disastrous event. This includes efforts to prevent terrorist attacks, reduce Alaska's vulnerability to terrorism and minimize the loss of life or damage to critical infrastructure.



Southcentral Storm. DHS&EM Response and Recovery staff responded to a series of severe winter storms striking Southcentral Alaska in February 2006. High winds, snow and freezing rain caused avalanches, road closures and power outages between Anchorage and Seward. An avalanche occurred at mile 21.5 of the Seward Highway and destroyed 2,000 feet of transmission and distribution line which is the primary and direct source of power from Chugach Electric to the city of Seward and surrounding areas. The event was declared a state disaster for the city of Seward and the Kenai Peninsula Borough. DHS&EM is currently managing the Public Assistance recovery program for this disaster.

Spring Floods Disaster. DHS&EM Response and Recovery staff responded to flooding and flood damages caused by ice jams on Alaska's rivers and extreme snow melt this spring in the cities of Hughes, Koyukuk, Nulato, Kwethluk, Bethel, Kongiganak, Emmonak, Alakanuk, Tetlin and Point Hope, and sections of the Steese, Copper River and Teller highways. Large portions of the communities and city infrastructure were impacted by the flooding, with several roads becoming inundated and eventually eroded by the floodwaters caused by ice jams along several rivers, including the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers, and the large amount of snow melt runoff that fed into the rivers and associated tributaries. The event was declared both a state and federal disaster. DHS&EM is currently working with FEMA on administering the Public Assistance program and is managing the Individual Assistance program for this disaster.

Hooper Bay Fire. DHS&EM Response and Recovery staff responded to a massive fire in the Western Alaska community of Hooper Bay in early August. Multiple fire response crews from neighboring communities and from as far away as Nome battled the raging inferno for numerous hours. By the time all was said and done, the blaze had consumed nearly 10 percent of the community, including the old school and support buildings, teacher housing facilities, the ANICA store and 14 homes that housed 113 residents. DHS&EM assisted the Hooper Bay Incident Management Team in meeting all life/safety needs immediately after the event and coordinated assistance from multiple State agencies, non-profit organizations and private industry partners. The event was declared a state disaster and DHS&EM is currently administering the Public Assistance and Individual Assistance recovery programs for this disaster. Governor Murkowski sought federal assistance to help the community recover from the fire.

Southcentral Flooding. DHS&EM Response and Recovery staff responded to severe flooding, landslides and mudslides caused by a powerful storm system that passed over Southcentral Alaska in August. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Denali Borough and the Chugach Regional Education Attendance Area were hardest hit with numerous public infrastructure components, roadway and rail systems, and commercial and personal property sustaining damage during the storm. DHS&EM coordinated with several state agencies to assist the communities affected. The event was declared a state disaster and Governor Murkowski has requested federal disaster assistance.

Augustine Volcano. DHS&EM worked closely with the Alaska Volcano Observatory and the National Weather Service in monitoring the eruption of Augustine Volcano this summer. DHS&EM coordinated with all local, state, and federal agencies involved in providing daily information briefings and any advisories, watches or warnings to local emergency management officials and the general public.

Security and Vulnerability Assessments (SVA). The DHS&EM SVA Team utilized the training they received in FY05

to bring tremendous benefits to Alaska in FY06. Some examples of sites assessed include the cruise ship docks in Ketchikan, Skagway and Juneau; the Flint Hills Refinery; Fairbanks Airport; Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport; the Port of Anchorage; the city of North Pole's water treatment plant; and the city of Barrow's natural gas fields. Additionally, the SVA Team assisted 11 separate infrastructure sites in the completion of Buffer Zone Protection Plans for submission to the U.S. Office of Domestic Preparedness.

Live Emergency Alert System Tests. DHS&EM participated as the lead state agency in a live test of the Tsunami Warning System. The test was the second annual test of the tsunami warning portion of the system. Unlike the regular monthly "test" messages of the Emergency Alert System, the only way to truly test the tsunami warning system is to use the real codes. The test message was broadcast all over the state via NOAA Weather Radio, Emergency Alert System messaging on television and radio, and other state and local communication links. Additionally, DHS&EM worked in close partnership with the Alaska State Troopers to conduct the first test of Alaska's Amber Alert child abduction warning system. The Amber Alert is used to simultaneously get information about a possible child abduction through the electronic media and through the electronic road signs along Alaska's highways in hopes of spotting the kidnapper.

Mitigation Planning. DHS&EM's Mitigation Section collaborated with the state Floodplain Management staff to target flood threatened communities and assist them in developing dual-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans to enhance their access to supplemental mitigation program funding while enabling each community to maximize their knowledge of the hazards threatening them. The Mitigation Section also completed the development of their Web-based planning tool's "MitigationPlan.com User's Guide." This document is a step-by-step instructional tool simplifying the use of the Web-based Visual Risk Technologies mitigation planning development software. The project used Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program funding from FEMA and took six months to complete. ■

Ice Damage. Flood waters were not the only problem communities had to deal with. The floating ice chunks coming ashore with the flood waters wrecked havoc as well. Photo: Kerry Selfert, DHS&EM





Veterans

2006 – Honoring Our Veterans

Story by Jerry Beale, Veterans Affairs Administrator

Serving Alaskan veterans is a top priority of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. A record number of important achievements were accomplished this year. Alaska has more veterans, per capita, than any other state.

– **Veterans Home.** Alaska's first Veterans' and Pioneers' Home opened its doors in Palmer this year thanks to a strong partnership between DMVA and DHSS. They obtained U.S. Veterans Administration support in 2006, overcoming setbacks in 2003 when multiple proposals stymied efforts. Governor Frank H. Murkowski and Major

General Craig E. Campbell, the Adjutant General, led the dedication and ribbon cutting event. Results: qualified veterans, living in the Alaska Veterans' & Pioneers' Home, can reduce their monthly care expenses up to 30 percent.

– **Training Opportunities.** Alaska's veterans and military members using Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits and federal Veterans Affairs vocational rehabilitation programs now have a local liaison to ensure quality schools and programs available for Alaskans. The Office of Veterans Affairs is the State Approving Agency. Results: Veterans benefit from 96 newly approved training program options added this year and approval of a \$75,000 VA funding grant. The State Approving Agency cut a backlog of state educational programs awaiting approval and created a position designed to achieve these milestones and benefits for veterans and military members.

Recognitions. DMVA made two significant efforts to honor World War II veterans:

– **During the war,** Territorial Governor Ernest Gruening asked every available able-bodied male to enlist in the Alaska Territorial Guard. Approximately 6,600 men and women stepped forward – most were Alaskan Natives. Known as "Uncle Sam's Men" – their volunteer service became legendary. Recognizing their honorable service gained momentum in 2003. Results: By 2006, more than 170 discharge applications were approved – ATG veterans are receiving benefits they earned in a war fought so long ago. An estimated 300 ATG veterans remain alive.

– **Aleutian Campaign.** Thanks and appreciations continue to

go out to veterans who defended Alaska from the invading Japanese. It's part of the Aleutian Campaign recognition program. Results: More than 800 veterans received letters of appreciation from the governor and a Certificate of Service from the adjutant general.

Earned Benefits. Veterans and their families utilize the 12 full-time employees funded by the Joint Venture Grant to help them receive their benefits. The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars share the

responsibilities equally with four employees in each organization. The grant increased by \$31,000, for state fiscal year 2007, to meet the increased travel and employer costs. Results: Alaskan veterans will receive more than \$112 million in compensation and pension payments. About 14,000 Alaskan veterans are expected to receive medical treatment through the VA. Total VA expenses in Alaska will exceed \$250 million.

Home Loans. With support from Alaska's congressional delegation, Governor Frank H. Murkowski and Major General Craig E. Campbell, new State Veterans Home Loan legislation was signed into law by President George W. Bush. The new law provides veterans home loans from the proceeds of tax-exempt Qualified Veteran Mortgage Bonds. Qualifying vets within 25 years of the date of their discharge from military service are eligible. Results: In just the first three months of this new legislation, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation financed \$12.6 million in mortgages for 46 veterans.

Compare that with financing \$11.5 million for 44 veterans in all of last year.

Successful support for veterans and their families were attained through the outstanding outreach efforts in 2006:

– **The Moving Wall,** a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, listing the names of 58,253 service members killed during the war, came to Alaska for another tour. Entitled "A Summer of Honor – A Season of Gratitude," the Moving Wall visited Fairbanks, Wasilla, Eagle River, Kodiak, Cordova, Bethel and Auke Bay. Joe Fields, a Vietnam veteran and



Honoring Fallen Heroes. Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, and Sharon Long, mother of fallen Lance Corporal Grant Fraser, on Nov. 11 unveil a bronze plaque with the names of the first 10 Alaskan military members killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Fallen Alaskans Memorial Plaque is located at the Anchorage Veterans' Memorial at the Delaney Park Strip. The list includes: Sergeant Kurtis D.K. Arcala, Sergeant Matthew C. Bohling, First Lieutenant Jaime L. Campbell, Specialist Michael I. Edwards, Lance Corporal Grant B. Fraser, Lance Corporal Jeremiah C. Kinchen, Private First Class Joseph I. Love, Specialist Jacob E. Melson, Chief Warrant Officer Chester W. Troxel and Specialist Shane W. Woods. Alaska's eleventh fallen service member, Marine Corporal Michael H. Lasky, of Sterling, died Nov. 2. His name will be added to the plaque. Photo: Kalei Brooks, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

Space & Missile Defense

Guard Tradition: *Defending the Homeland*



In 2002, Fort Greely was a closed, lifeless, mothballed post – target of an earlier Base Realignment and Closure commission. In 2003, the Missile Defense Program and more than 250 Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers arrived. It's never been the same since.

Story by Master Sergeant Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

FORT GREELY, Alaska... The Guard has matured into a 21st century force protecting America from threats posed by weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists and from threats to the nation by countries that would attack with missiles bearing deadly warheads. "This is not a show," observed Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Lieutenant Colonel Ted Hildreth, new commander of the 300-member battalion said the Alaska Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion plays a key role in the national missile defense program announced by President George W. Bush in 2002.

More than 10 ground-based interceptor missiles, capable of intercepting and destroying enemy missiles aimed at U.S. targets, are installed in underground silos on the fort situated about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks.

Fort Greely is ideal. Interceptors can track and destroy ballistic missiles fired from Asia or the Middle East. It is a secluded region with military infrastructure already in place. It allows for wide-ranging tests thanks to temperatures fluctuating from 80 degrees in summer to minus 10 in winter, with windchills to minus 88.

"The Guard has done a marvelous job of standing up this unit, committing it to this mission, and keeping faith with that mission; trained Soldiers that know what they are doing," said Major General Larry Dodgen, commander of the Army's Space and Missile Defense Command.

"I believe there are enduring homeland security issues that we need the National Guard to do, and this is one that they have embraced and done very well," Dodgen added. ■

Presidential Authority. President George W. Bush and Major General Craig E. Campbell co-signed the rare Authority and Consent for Dual Status Commanders for Missile Defense Operations.

the project coordinator, received the 2006 Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award. **Results:** Thousands of Alaskans recalled the sacrifice of Vietnam Veterans and their families.

– **The 26th National Veterans Wheelchair Games** were hosted by Anchorage in July. The event gave Alaskans an opportunity to recognize America's heroes – those who bravely served, preserving our freedom and liberty. **Results:** More than 500 athletes enjoyed a fantastic week of competition thanks to more than 2,000 volunteers.

– **Stand Down helps veterans in need.** The annual veteran's support efforts brought more than two dozen local, state and federal agencies together to support veterans-in-need in Anchorage and Fairbanks. **Results:** More than 700 veterans and family members received a range of health and social services

benefits, along with hot meals, warm clothes and fellowship.

– **Remembering veterans.** The Veterans Memorial Endowment Fund provided \$11,630 to three projects located in Bethel, Anchorage and Fairbanks. **Results:** Upkeep of memorials is an important responsibility – more than \$12,400 will be distributed next year.

Alaska's Veterans Affairs Office provides staff support for the Governor's Alaska Veterans Advisory Council. Members of the Council represent all service organizations and military service branches from across the state. The need to provide them with the best support available is evident. Major General Craig E. Campbell and the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs have led the way – *working hard for veterans and their families.* ■

Alaska Military Youth Academy



Youth Academy Shines. The Alaska Military Youth Academy is part of the National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program, which helps at-risk youth get back on track with their lives and produces program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. The Youth ChalleNGe Program is a 22-week residential school based on the traditional military training model. The Alaska Military Youth Academy serves the needs of 16- to 18-year-old Alaskans and is located at Camp Carroll on Fort Richardson. Photo: Ken Fankhauser, DMVA Public Affairs

Changing Lives

The Alaska Military Youth Academy's tuition-free ChalleNGe program is designed to provide at-risk 16-year-old through 18-year-old Alaskan youth a chance to complete a high school education, gain healthy life skills and develop leadership and teamwork skills that will lead them to lifelong success.

Alaska's ChalleNGe program is based on historically tried and proven American military based training methods and structure. The military structure and discipline allow residential cadets to focus on goals and to fully participate and perform during the mentally and physically demanding 22-week course.

Located on Fort Richardson within the Camp Carroll training site, the Youth Academy's main campus provides living facilities, food service, technical training, academic classes, medical services and administrative support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for its ChalleNGe students.

To provide Alaskan youth and families easier access to academy information and faster service, the school has opened two satellite offices – one in the Dimond Center in south Anchorage and another in the Army National Guard armory in Fairbanks. Since opening the Fairbanks admissions office, the number of applicants from Interior Alaska has increased more than 400 percent.

The number of students enrolling in ChalleNGe classes reached an historic high. More than 250 young men and women enrolled in the fall 2006 ChalleNGe class, an increase of more than 70 percent from the fall 2005 class. To accommodate the increasing demand for ChalleNGe, the academy has expanded its Fort Richardson campus, now using all available facilities at the Camp Carroll Training Site.

As of September 2006, the academy has graduated more than 2,000 ChalleNGe cadets. According to national program monitors, more than 90 percent of academy ChalleNGe graduates are leading productive, successful lives more than a year after completing the residential course.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools. The academy is also an Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development testing site. ■

STARBASE

The academy's STARBASE (Science and Technology Academics Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Space Exploration) Program provides elementary school students hands-on experiences in the academic areas of math, science and technology, coupled with strong citizenship, communication and teamwork development skills. The curriculum supplements existing science classes taught in traditional grade schools.

Training includes computer-based flight simulation, physics experiments and building and launching pressure-propelled rockets.

In cooperation with the Alaska National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction program, the academy's STARBASE curriculum includes substance abuse avoidance training.

In 2006, more than 1,200 Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough area students attended the week-long STARBASE training. During 2006, a second STARBASE classroom was added at the Fort Richardson AMYA campus and a training site was opened in Kenai at the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska. This expansion allows STARBASE to begin to meet a growing demand by serving additional Alaskan students. The academy is currently considering additional sites to bring STARBASE to more Alaskan students.

The academy's STARBASE Program also schedules courses for special groups during traditional vacation periods. Families of Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and families of deployed military members have been among those served. ■

Alaska State Defense Force



A Year of Superlatives and Service

Story by Major Mike Haller, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs (with Warrant Officer One Amanda Isakson, ASDF)



Innovative, relevant. Members of the Alaska State Defense Force have ready, reliable forces that are available for deployment in response to threats to Alaska and during natural disasters or emergencies.

Photos courtesy of Alaska State Defense Force

The Alaska State Defense Force, also known as the ASDF, is a significant force provider to both State and homeland security leaders. More than 300 Alaskans, located statewide, serve as military police officers.

In 2006, their missions are unique; their determination tangible; and, their success is evident. Nearly four years ago, that simply was not the case.

"The Alaska State Defense Force is a valued, relevant and deployable military force in the accomplishment of homeland security and related missions for Alaska," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General and commissioner for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. "They've worked very hard to increase their value. In fact, through focused, determined planning and development they've emerged as a 'go to' organization when critical security needs arise within our borders. They provide articulate, well prepared forces."

The mission of the Alaska State Defense Force is – *to maintain an organized, trained military force, capable of timely and effective response to state emergencies, or, on other occasions as deemed appropriate by the Governor, provide military assistance to civil and military authorities in the preservation of life and property and to ensure public safety.*

Recognized by the Department of Defense, and authorized under Title 26 of Alaska Statutes, the ASDF was re-established in 1984. It is a direct descendent of the Alaska Territorial Guard that so ably helped defend the coastline of Alaska during World

War II and the opening stages of the Cold War.

Their role in the War on Terror has important value for Alaskans. The ASDF is organized through several components, among them: the 49th Military Police Brigade, with its four battalions and a Military Police Academy. The Brigade is headquartered at Camp Denali, on Fort Richardson, with subordinate units in Juneau, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

During the past year, members of the 49th Military Police Brigade, 492nd Coastal Command, the 491st Aviation Regiment and the 2nd Emergency Satellite Communications Battalion have played important roles in securing the Alaskan ports, other transportation nodes and key infrastructure. They routinely work hand-in-hand with U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Army operations.

"What they do is so impressive," said Campbell. "They bring a level of professional experience to their homeland security, homeland defense and emergency management missions that clearly tips the scale in Alaska's favor. Their innovative success is based upon solid recruitment, training, readiness and attitude. Their ability to quickly mobilize and deploy forces is well known."

According to officials nearly two dozen states have active State Defense Forces. Among the most active: Alaska, Texas, Louisiana and Puerto Rico. By regulations, at least 75 percent of ASDF members must have had prior federal military experience – the majority does. ■

Alaska Naval Militia

... Standing Ready to Serve

The Alaska Naval Militia is composed of U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps Reservists. Members proudly wear "two hats" with the rank or rate of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps while serving in the Alaska Naval Militia.

The primary role of the Naval Militia is to assist and augment the National Guard in times of emergency or disaster. At the direction of the governor or adjutant general, the training, skills and experiences of Naval Militia members are readily available to aid their fellow Alaskans. As an example, the fall 2006

flooding in the Mat-Su Valley brought several members into the efforts to assist local residents impacted by the disaster.

Each member has made a personal commitment to either the Navy or Marine Corps Reserve. This group has seen duty in Iraq and Afghanistan this year as well.

They are side-by-side with their counterparts in the Alaska Army and Air National Guard when on State Active Duty. *The Alaska Naval Militia is Ready to Serve!* ■





Recognitions

Legion of Merit



Brig Gen James RobinsonJFHQ-AK (Air)
COL Justine EmersonJFHQ-AK (Army)
LTC Marc Coulombe207th Bde
LTC Shiela KopczynskiJFHQ-AK (Army)
CW5 Roger StickneyJFHQ-AK (Army)
CW4 Harry James207th Avn
CW4 Bruce Perry207th Avn

Bronze Star



Maj Carl R. Alvarez168th SFS
MSgt Alphonzo W. Allen168th SFS
MSgt Charles E. Sears168th SFS
TSgt Robert M. Dickerson Jr.168th SFS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal



SGT Phillip Chang117th MPAD

Alaska Legion of Merit



Lt Col Jay Williams168th AMS
Lt Col Ty Lee176th WG
CMSgt Jeffrey Mason168th MSF
MSgt Harold Vannortwick176th MSG

Alaska Distinguished Service



Lt Col Richard Hawkins210th RQS
MSgt Debra FrenchJFHQ-AK (Air)

Alaska Cold War Victory Ribbon



Lt Col Jay Williams168th AMS

**A FINAL SALUTE
TO OUR
FALLEN WARRIORS**

First Lieutenant Jaime Campbell
Iraq

Chief Warrant Officer Four Chester Troxel
Iraq

Specialist Michael Edwards
Iraq

Specialist Jacob Melson
Iraq

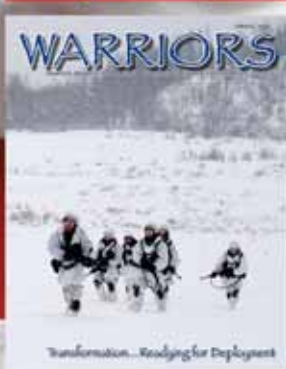
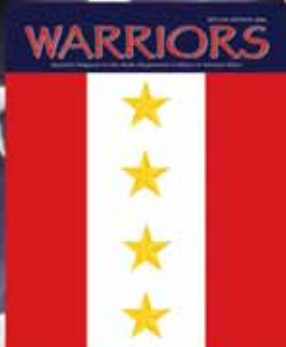
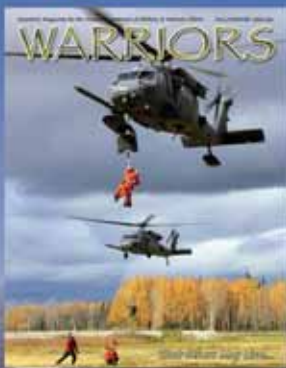
Major Bryan Adrian
Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

Sergeant First Class George Dauma, Jr.
Camp Shelby, Mississippi

Sergeant First Class William Brown
Camp Shelby, Mississippi



Lawmakers Earn Recognition. Alaska State Representative Richard Foster, right, recently received the Patrick Henry Award from the National Guard Association of the United States for his outstanding long-term service to the military. The award recognizes civic leaders who, while in a position of great responsibility, distinguish themselves with exceptional service to the U.S. Armed Forces, specifically the National Guard. Foster, a combat veteran, understands the need for quality facilities, equipment, training, education and public support for a strong homeland defense. "It is a great, great honor that it was presented to me," Foster said. "I have such great respect for the military and their staff. It is one of the great highlights of my career." In addition, Representative Bob Lynn was honored for his support of the Alaska National Guard, particularly the Family Readiness Programs and his championing efforts to secure program funding. Lynn was presented with a distinctive heritage print of a P-40 fighting back at the attack on Pearl Harbor. "Just to be able to help the Guard and the military in any way is an award in itself because they are the cutting edge of the sword," Lynn said. "But I am honored beyond words." Major General Craig Campbell, the Adjutant General of Alaska, presented the awards on February 8, in Juneau. Photo courtesy of House Majority Press Office

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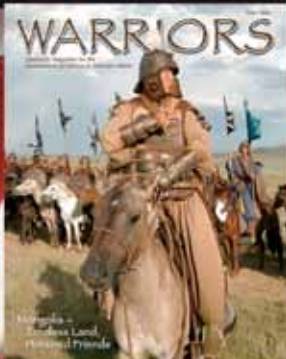
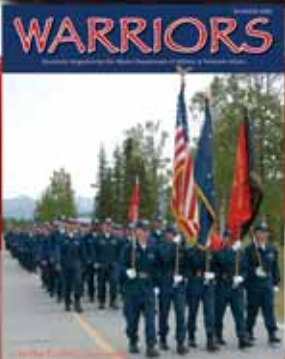
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